

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE



Library

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR
1964

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1964 — 1965

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

A. C. LESTER, ESQ., The Triangle, Wantage Road, Wallingford.
DR. O. C. WILKINSON, Bezants, Winterbrook, Wallingford.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

F. W. HAINES, ESQ., 78 Charlton Road, Wantage.
J. WILSON, ESQ., 6 Church Street, Wantage.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MRS. E. M. COLLIER (*Chairman*), Colliers Cottage, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Nr. Wallingford.
L. G. HITCHCOCK, ESQ., 10 Edinburgh Drive, Didcot.
J. H. GALLO, ESQ., 36 High Street, Didcot.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

D. B. A. BEATTIE, ESQ. (*Vice-Chairman*), Brookside, Westbrook Street, Blewbury, Berks.
E. C. GOLBY, ESQ., Cheap Street, Compton, Nr. Newbury.
G. CORRIE-MILLS, ESQ., Beedon Hill, Beedon, Nr. Newbury.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

J. L. SALE, ESQ., C.I.E., Priors Hold, Wantage.
DR. A. G. WALTER, Middle Wharf, Thames Street, Wallingford.

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

G. V. SPOONER, 60 Bath Street, Abingdon. (Retired September 1964).
R. R. WRIGHT, Municipal Offices, Wallingford. (Appointed October 1964).

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

F. R. HOWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Secretary

MRS. E. L. FUDGE

Municipal Offices, Wallingford.

Telephone 2561.

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Additional Public Health Inspector

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1964. The information required by the Ministry of Health Circular 1/65 is included herein.

The combined population of the four districts was 50,440, an increase of 1,870 (3.9%) above the 1963 figure. This is the first time the total has exceeded 50,000. Of this rise in population, about one third (604) was due to the excess of births over deaths and the remaining two thirds (1,266) to movement into the District. Each of the four districts has experienced a substantial population increase, although the Borough of Wallingford has been rather less favoured than the other three, largely because of its high crude death rate (due, as always, to the high percentage of old people living within the Borough in residential accommodation for the aged). Population increases in the four districts due to immigration were as follows: - Wallingford Borough, 128 (2.5%); Wantage Urban, 380 (5.8%); Wallingford Rural, 318 (1.6%); Wantage Rural, 440 (2.5%).

There were 1,150 live births during the year, 142 (14.1%) more than in 1963. The Urban District of Wantage again had the lowest birth rate, but even this was higher than the provisional rate for England and Wales. The time has, however, gone when a continually rising birth rate could be regarded with satisfaction and I am pleased to be able to report that steps were taken during the latter part of the year to establish a Family Planning Clinic within the District. As a result of the enthusiasm and industry of the Committee formed for the purpose and the generous support given by the Family Planning Association, the Family Planning Clinic at Oxford and the Wantage Urban and Rural Districts the first session was enabled to be held at the end of April, 1965. Two sessions are held each month at the Wantage Cottage Hospital, on the first Wednesday afternoon and third Thursday evening; attendance is open to all on payment of a small fee. The fee can be waived in needy cases.

There is no doubt in my mind that the increasing world population is the most important problem which faces us today. Immediate action is called for but it is particularly difficult to introduce

effective control in the very places where it is most needed, the already overpopulated and relatively backward elements of society, both national and global. We are, in fact, about to pay the price for allowing advances in some fields far to outstrip those in others. We have gone too far in the control of disease and the reduction in infant and maternal mortality without properly considering their inevitable and rapidly cumulative effects. Birth control is the only acceptable answer and this must be rapidly extended to include all races and classes of society. It is to be hoped the organisations which are studying this problem and the world conference which is to be held in Belgrade later this year will be able to discover how it can be achieved. In our own country family planning is now a necessity and I hope that it will be possible to establish clinics in other parts of the District in the near future.

There was a considerable improvement in the number of stillbirths in the District during 1964, 16 compared with 23 in 1963. This made the stillbirth rate 13.9 per 1,000 total births; the provisional figure for England and Wales was 16.3.

The 46 illegitimate births were also fewer than in 1963 when there were 53. This figure is rather better than it at first seems as it must be referred to a considerably higher total of births. It represents, in fact, 4% of all live births and compares very favourably with a national figure of 7.2%

While the birth rate rose the crude death rate fell from 12.4 in 1963 to 10.8 in 1964. There were 546 deaths in all (601 in 1963). Wallingford Borough again had the highest crude rate, 18.9 per 1,000 population, because of the residential accommodation for the aged already referred to, but even this was much less than the figure of 21.2 per 1,000 population for 1963. The corrected death rates, which take into account this factor as well as the age and sex distribution of the population, were all better than the provisional rate for England and Wales (11.3 per 1,000 population), which was itself considerably lower than the 1963 figure of 12.2 per 1,000 population. Infant deaths under 1 year numbered 23, three less than in 1963, giving an infant mortality rate of 20.0 per 1,000 live births, exactly the same as the provisional rate for England and Wales. This carries on the improvement shown by last year's figure and it is to be hoped this trend will continue. Of the 23 infants, twelve were under 1 week old at the time of death, one was between 1 and 4 weeks' old and the remaining ten were over 4 weeks old.

Diseases of the heart and circulation accounted for 288 of the total of 546 deaths (52.7%). Coronary disease and angina caused 110 of these 288 deaths (38.2%), a very much higher percentage than last year. On the other hand, there were only 76 deaths from strokes (vascular diseases of the nervous system) compared to 91 in

1963. This reflects a fall in the comparable national statistics. Cancer deaths numbered 97, the same number as last year but a higher percentage of the total deaths; 22 of these were from cancer of the lung, an increase of 1 on the 1963 figure. It is worth while pointing out once more than heavy cigarette smoking was undoubtedly responsible for many of these deaths. There were 7 deaths due to congenital malformations, 4 less than in 1963 and the same number as in 1962. Deaths from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other diseases of the respiratory system were considerably reduced, numbering only 48, compared with 72 in 1963. This reduction again reflects national statistics. No doubt the warmer and drier weather during the year was largely responsible for this improvement.

Notifications of infectious diseases were down to 176 as it was not a measles epidemic year. There was a considerable rise in the number of cases of whooping cough, from 9 in 1963 to 30 in 1964. This rise, which affected the whole country, appears to have been associated with increasing virulence in a strain of *H. pertussis* not included in whooping cough vaccine. It called for an adjustment to the composition of the vaccine and figures for the first six months of 1965 show a marked improvement. There was an increase in the number of cases of respiratory tuberculosis, from 19 in 1963 to 25 in 1964, the whole increase being accounted for by a rise of 6 (from 3 in 1963 to 9 in 1964) in the Wantage Urban District. No satisfactory explanation can be given for this rise, which was against the national trend. It was probably partly the result of the rising population and partly the consequence of increasing use being made of the General Practitioner Unit of the M.M.R., which picked up more cases. Looking at the notifications for the first half of 1965, I see that the upward trend has not continued, there having been only 3 notifications of respiratory tuberculosis in that period in the whole District, none of them being in the Wantage Urban District. It is now almost five years since the Mobile Mass X-ray Unit (as distinct from the Mobile G.P. Unit) visited the District. It is hoped it will be coming again about the beginning of 1966. There were only 10 cases of dysentery notified. They were all from a small outbreak in the Army quarters in Didcot. Since the closing down of the Depot at Didcot, these quarters have been used to house families from the unit stationed at Bicester and it was felt that, largely owing to a rapid change over in the population and a shortage of senior personnel and their families, conditions in the quarters were not so good as they might have been. A meeting was arranged between the Army authorities, the general practitioners, the clergy, health and welfare visitors and the public health department. Following this meeting, at which the Army authorities agreed to take such steps as were possible, a good deal of improvement was noted in the general conditions in the quarters. In general, however, it must be said that married

quarters so far removed from a parent unit are an unsatisfactory arrangement. No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. There were, however, 3 cases of mild metallic food poisoning. These occurred in a Didcot family, following the consumption of tropical fruit salad. After withdrawing from local sale all stocks of the brand concerned this matter was referred to the Ministry of Health. When tests had confirmed that cans of this salad had above the permissible 300 parts per million of tin, the Ministry asked all retailers who held them to withdraw their stocks from sale and advised the South African authorities.

The tables relating to immunisation procedures have been somewhat altered this year. Protection against diphtheria and whooping cough is now almost always given in the form of a triple antigen which also includes tetanus. Three injections at monthly intervals, starting at about 2 months of age, comprise the primary course. Boosting injections should be given at about 18 months and at school entry (diphtheria and tetanus only). It is still possible to have these courses separately and a number of infants were given whooping cough vaccine alone, for one reason or another. These are shown in a separate table. The number who received diphtheria vaccine alone was too small to be worth showing separately. The figures for both primary courses and boosting injections of triple antigen are better than the comparable figures shown in last year's report for diphtheria and whooping cough vaccines separately, the total number being 1,329 compared with separate totals of 932 and 952 respectively for 1963. This carries on an upward trend which I hope will continue.

There was a substantial increase in the number of vaccinations against smallpox given to infants under five years of age, 728 compared with 451 in 1963, although the total recorded vaccinations was only slightly higher, 857 compared with 783, because of the much smaller numbers given to age groups over 4 years. Most of the latter were re-vaccinations. The best age for primary vaccination has been shown to be between the first and second birthdays because the incidence of complications is at its lowest during this period.

The number of B.C.G. vaccinations (against tuberculosis) was less than in 1962 and 1963, presumably because less parents consented to the procedure. There were, at the same time, a larger number of children who were positive to the pre-vaccination skin test (indicating that they had encountered the disease and developed a natural immunity to it). Children who are positive to this skin test are now followed up by being offered a chest x-ray to exclude active disease. The number of conversions after vaccination is really higher than is suggested by the figures in the table, being in the order of 99%, the difference being accounted for by absenteeism from the 3rd or 4th sessions.

The form of the table on poliomyelitis vaccination for 1964 has again been altered (to try to make it more comprehensible) and figures cannot be directly compared with those of 1963. Overall there is, however, a rather disappointing fall in the numbers vaccinated. No doubt this is a direct consequence of the small number of cases of poliomyelitis which occurred in the whole country during the year (49 cases with 5 deaths). As this report is being written, there is an outbreak of poliomyelitis in Blackburn and this will no doubt do more to stimulate the demand for vaccination than any amount of health education ever could.

In conclusion, I must say how very sorry I personally was when Mr. G. V. Spooner, who served your Committee as Clerk so loyally and well from its formation, decided to retire at the end of 1964 and how pleased I was when Mr. R. R. Wright was appointed in his place. The resignation during the year of your Chairman, Mrs. E. M. Collier on health grounds was also a matter for personal regret, and again I was pleased at the appointment of her successor, Dr. A. G. Walter. I would also like to express my thanks to the members of the four district Public Health Committees, my members of the Joint Public Health Committee, the various colleagues and my secretary for their advice, co-operation and help during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. R. HOWELL.

POPULATION

District	Area in Acres	Estimated Mid-Year Population		Difference
		1963	1964	
Wallingford Borough	760	5,140	5,300	+ 160
Wantage Urban	2,797	6,520	6,970	+ 450
Wallingford Rural	21,790	19,330	19,880	+ 550
Wantage Rural	74,181	17,580	18,290	+ 710
Combined Districts	99,528	48,570	50,440	+ 1,870

LIVE BIRTHS

District	No. of live births in 1964			Birth rate per 1,000 population		Corrected Birth rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	per 1,000 population		per 1,000 population	
				1963	1964	1963	1964
Wallingford Borough	68	64	132	20.2	24.9	19.0	23.4
Wantage Urban	63	75	138	16.7	19.8	17.4	20.6
Wallingford Rural	254	208	462	21.5	23.2	22.4	24.1
Wantage Rural	197	221	418	21.6	22.8	20.9	22.1
Combined Districts	582	568	1150	20.8	22.8		
England and Wales*						18.2	18.4

STILL BIRTHS

District	No. of stillbirths		Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	
	1963	1964	1963	1964
Wallingford Borough	4	1		
Wantage Urban	2	4		
Wallingford Rural	12	6		
Wantage Rural	5	5		
Combined Districts	23	16	22.3	13.9
England and Wales*			17.2	16.4

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

District	Number of illegitimate births per annum					
	1938	1945	1953	1962	1963	1964
Wallingford Borough	3	5	1	4	3	5
Wantage Urban	3	17	—	8	5	3
Wallingford Rural	11	26	16	19	28	23
Wantage Rural	7	30	14	17	17	15
Combined Disrticts	24	78	31	48	53	46

TOTAL DEATHS

District	No. of Deaths			Crude death rate per 1,000 population		Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	
	1964						
	Male	Female	Total	1963	1964	1963	1964
Wallingford Borough	47	53	100	21.2	18.9	11.1	10.0
Wantage Urban	31	37	68	11.8	9.8	9.1	7.5
Wallingford Rural	108	122	230	12.4	11.6	10.2	10.0
Wantage Rural	76	72	148	10.0	8.1	11.8	9.6
Combined Districts	262	284	546	12.4	10.8		
England and Wales*						12.2	11.3

INFANT MORTALITY

District	No. of infant deaths under 12 months of age		Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	
	1963	1964	1963	1964
Wallingford Borough	2	0		
Wantage Urban	1	2		
Wallingford Rural	17	13		
Wantage Rural	6	8		
Combined Districts	26	23	25.8	20.0
England and Wales*			21.1	20.0

* Figures for England and Wales for 1964 are provisional.

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION
(TRIPLE ANTIGEN) 1964

District	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Wallingford Borough					
Primary Course	68	49	18	—	135
Booster	—	63	22	—	85
Wallingford Rural					
Primary Course	217	118	2	—	337
Booster	—	138	20	—	158
Wantage Urban					
Primary Course	69	47	6	—	122
Booster	—	88	14	12	114
Wantage Rural					
Primary Course	12	252	3	—	267
Booster	—	93	15	3	111
Combined Districts	366	848	100	15	1329

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION 1964

District	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Wallingford Borough					
Primary Course	12	—	—	—	12
Booster	6	—	—	—	6
Wallingford Rural					
Primary Course	11	—	—	—	11
Booster	—	—	—	—	—
Wantage Urban					
Primary Course	9	—	—	—	9
Booster	9	—	—	—	9
Wantage Rural					
Primary Course	6	—	—	—	6
Booster	—	—	—	—	—
Combined Districts	53	—	—	—	53

SMALLPOX VACCINATION 1964

District	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Wallingford Borough					
Primary	25	85	4	—	114
Re-Vacc.	—	13	37	—	50
Wallingford Rural					
Primary	84	135	14	—	233
Re-Vacc.	—	29	14	4	47
Wantage Urban					
Primary	40	88	5	—	133
Re-Vacc.	—	17	33	—	50
Wantage Rural					
Primary	46	149	—	15	210
Re-Vacc.	—	17	3	—	20
Combined Districts	195	533	110	19	857

B.C.G. VACCINATION

School	Number positive at 1st skin test			Number vaccinated			Number of conversions		
	1962	1963	1964	1962	1963	1964	1962	1963	1964
Wallingford Grammar	6	6	7	38	40	37	30	36	34
Blackstone County Sec.	18	10	13	94	100	68	83	79	57
King Alfred's Grammar	4	8	6	37	52	37	35	48	34
Icknield County Sec.	11	5	2	108	117	68	92	104	57
Didcot Girls' Grammar	1	10	17	54	46	41	48	40	41
St. Birinus County Sec.	12	8	8	65	81	68	54	55	67
St. Frideswide's Cnty. Sec.	7	12	12	82	69	76	64	58	71
Cranford House P.N.E.U.	4	3	4	12	16	11	10	15	11
Segsbury	—	—	5	—	—	39	—	—	35
The Downs	12	15	10	62	62	49	47	50	32
Total	75	77	84	552	583	494	463	485	439

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

District	Sabin Vaccine (Oral)		Salk Vaccine			
	Full course	Booster doses	Primary course		Completed course	
			2 injections only	3 injections	2 injections + 2 oral	Booster doses
Wallingford Borough						
Born 1960-1964	63	93	2	1	3	—
Born prior to 1960	4	—	—	—	—	—
Wallingford Rural						
Born 1960-1964	341	273	—	12	44	3
Born prior to 1960	39	—	—	2	3	—
Wantage Urban						
Born 1960-1964	81	69	—	—	—	1
Born prior to 1960	8	—	—	—	—	—
Wantage Rural						
Born 1960-1964	232	178	25	7	15	3
Born prior to 1960	35	—	—	4	1	—
Total	803	613	27	26	66	7

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease	Wfd. Boro	Wantage U.D.	Wfd. R.D.	Wantage R.D.	Total 1964	Total 1963
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	10	—	10	30
Encephalitis (Acute)	—	—	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	9
Malaria B.T.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	12	19	6	49	86	495
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	2	—	2	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary)	—	1	2	1	4	3
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	2	10	13	11
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	9	7	7	25	19
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	—	—	2	3	5	3
Whooping Cough	—	4	15	11	30	9
Total	14	34	46	82	176	584

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Wallingford Borough M. F. Total	Wantage U.D. M. F. Total	Wallingford R.D. M. F. Total	Wantage R.D. M. F. Total	Combined Districts 1964 1963
Tuberculosis, respiratory	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	1 — —
Tuberculosis, other	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Syphilitic disease	— — —	— — —	— — —	1 — 1	4 1
Diphtheria	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Whooping cough	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Meningococcal infections	1 — 1	— — —	— — —	— — —	1 — —
Acute Poliomyelitis	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Measles	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —
Other infective and parasitic diseases	— — —	— — —	— 1 1	— — —	1 1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	— 1 1	— — —	6 1 7	4 1 5	13 18
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3 1 4	5 — 5	7 — 7	5 1 6	22 21
Malignant neoplasm, breast	— 1 1	— 3 3	— 5 5	— 4 4	13 9
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	— 2 2	— — —	— — —	— — —	2 7
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3 5 8	5 3 8	9 12 21	3 7 10	47 37
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— 5
Diabetes	— — —	— — —	— — —	— 1 1	1 1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	9 12 21	1 8 9	12 15 27	7 12 19	76 91

Coronary disease, angina	9	4	13	9	9	18	32	22	54	15	10	25	110	80
Hypertension with heart disease	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	—	1	5	11
Other heart disease	6	4	10	—	4	4	10	35	45	9	8	17	76	104
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4	2	5	7	1	4	5	3	2	5	21	26
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Pneumonia	4	4	8	2	—	2	7	6	13	2	4	6	29	40
Bronchitis	4	—	4	2	—	2	2	—	2	5	2	7	15	25
Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	4	2
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	2	4	3
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	1	1	4	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	2	3	2	—	2	7	11
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	14	16	1	2	3	7	13	20	9	13	22	61	68
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1	1	—	1	4	—	4	6	—	6	12	4
All other accidents	1	1	2	—	2	2	5	2	7	2	3	5	16	18
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	2	3	3
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	47	53	100	31	37	68	108	122	230	76	72	148	546	601

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Address and when held.
Blewbury	Parish Hall; First Tuesday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Brightwell	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 3.0—4.0 p.m.
Chaddleworth	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Childrey	Reading Room; First Tuesday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Cholsey	The Laurence Hall; Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 2.30—4.30 p.m.
Compton	Village Hall; Third Wednesdays, 2.0—4.15 p.m.
Didcot	Northbourne Church Hall; Fridays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
East Hanney	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
East Hendred	Parish Hall; Fourth Wednesday, 3.0—4.30 p.m.
Hagbourne	Village Hall; Fourth Tuesday, 3.0—4.30 p.m.
Harwell	Technical Institute; Second Thursday, 2.30—4.30 p.m.
Harwell — A.E.R.E.	Civil Defence Building, Curie Avenue; Second & Fourth Monday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Letcombe Regis	Village Hall; Fourth Tuesday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Lockinge & Ardington	Loyd Lindsay Village Hall, Ardington; Second Wednesday, 3.0—4.0 p.m.
Long Wittenham	Village Hall; First and Third Tuesdays, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Wallingford	Conservative Hall; First and Third Friday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Wantage	Cottage Hospital; Every Friday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.

BOROUGH OF WALLINGFORD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied with water from main piped supplies.

Sixty-seven samples of chlorinated water in distribution were taken for bacteriological examination. All samples with the exception of three were found to be satisfactory. The three unsatisfactory samples were taken on a day of a breakdown in the chlorination plant situated at Station Road. The chlorinator was quickly repaired and subsequent samples have been satisfactory.

The fluoride content of the water supplied from the Wallingford boreholes is 0.15 parts per million. The supply is supplemented by water from outside the Borough, the fluoride content of which is less than 0.10 parts per million.

WATER PRESSURE

A survey of the Borough has been made where it was found that water pressure was inadequate at peak periods mainly confined to the extremities of the Borough.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewage from the whole of the Borough is pumped for treatment to the Wallingford Rural District Council's disposal works at Cholsey and this arrangement has continued to work satisfactorily.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A weekly collection of refuse from all properties in the Borough has been maintained satisfactorily throughout the year and the Council has continued to use the Wallingford Rural District Council's tip for disposal.

A paper sack system has been adopted for the Market and with the Tradesmen's co-operation has proved highly successful.

During the year a new refuse vehicle was commissioned. The new vehicle is a considerable improvement upon the side loading vehicle formerly used in respect of its greater capacity, improved hygiene and elimination of litter.

RODENT CONTROL

Summary of work carried out:

	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Dwelling Houses	36	50
Business premises	16	21
Local Authority premises	147	12
Agricultural premises	2	—
Sewers	—	—
	—	—
	201	83
	—	—

MILK SAMPLES

One dairy is registered for the retail sale of milk.

Six licences were issued by the Berkshire County Council under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations and were enforced during the year.

Sixty-three samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all samples passed the appropriate tests.

ICE CREAM

Thirteen premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream. All registered premises have been inspected during the year and all owners or occupiers of the premises notified of any contraventions. The general standard of these premises was found to be satisfactory. No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough.

Thirty-six samples of ice cream and eleven samples of fruit lollies were taken for bacteriological examination, with the following results: -

ICE CREAM

- 30 placed in Provisional Grade I.
- 3 placed in Provisional Grade II.
- 2 placed in Provisional Grade III.
- 1 placed in Provisional Grade IV.

FRUIT LOLLIES

9 found to be satisfactory, 2 unsatisfactory.

Where unsatisfactory samples were obtained immediate re-sampling took place and with the exception of one case were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES

TYPE OF BUSINESS

(a)	Butchers	...	...	...	...	9
(b)	Grocers	...	...	...	...	11
(c)	Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	2
(d)	Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	2
					(including one under (c))	
(e)	Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	5
(f)	Cafes	...	...	...	...	8
(g)	Hotels catering for non-residents				...	1
(h)	Bakers	...	...	...	...	2
(i)	Confectioners	...	...	...	...	8
(j)	Public Houses	...	...	...	...	13

All food premises have been inspected and the owners or occupiers notified of any contraventions under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1960. With the exception of one premises the standard of hygiene was reasonably satisfactory.

PUBLIC HOUSES

The owners of all the public houses in the Borough were requested to provide hand washing facilities for customers. These facilities included the provision of hot water which has now been installed in most cases and in the remaining premises instructions have been given to builders to do this work. Some 30 visits were made to these premises during the year.

The kitchens of hospitals, schools and old people's homes were all inspected during the year. Twenty-five inspections were carried out.

The weekly Market brings four food stalls into the Borough, all of which have been requested to protect all food displayed for sale. In addition washing facilities have been requested and two stalls have already provided this facility.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Summary of defects found upon inspection of premises:

	<i>No. of premises</i>
1. Lack of washing facilities or hot water ...	22
2. Defects in structure (including fittings and redecorations)	32
3. Lack of or unsatisfactory water closets ...	14
4. Defective drainage	6
5. Unsatisfactory refuse containers	23
6. Lack of protection of food	15

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

(a) Sale of ice cream	13
(b) Preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled and preserved food	8

BAKEHOUSES

There are two bakehouses in the Borough. Both were inspected and their condition was satisfactory.

HOUSES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

No houses were erected by the Borough Council during the year.

Seventy-nine houses were erected by private enterprises.

Fourteen houses were represented as unfit for human habitation.

The Council operates a small camping and caravan site at their Riverside Park for holiday purposes only, the maximum stay permitted being fourteen days.

BATHING PLACE

The Borough Council own and maintain an open air swimming pool and paddling pool at the Riverside Park near Wallingford Bridge.

The recirculation and purification plant has continued to function satisfactorily.

Seventeen samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from the swimming pool and plant during the season. Nineteen samples were taken from school swimming pools.

CARPET WEEVILS

There was an infestation of carpet weevils confined to one particular part of the town but by the use of 10% D.D.T. powder the infestation was controlled and no further complaints have been received.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All fresh meat condemned as unfit for human consumption is sprayed with liquid acid green and destroyed. All condemned tinned food is disposed of by the Local Authority with their refuse.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following quantities of unsound food were examined and voluntarily surrendered:

Tinned Meat	31 tins.
Frozen Food	25 pkts.

Three complaints were received regarding articles of perishable food having mould growth. In all cases the manufacturers or marketing companies have improved their coding systems on perishable foods and they appear to be working satisfactorily.

MEAT INSPECTION

Slaughtering is carried out at one slaughterhouse in the Borough and the condition of the premises has been completely satisfactory.

The following table gives details of carcasses and offal inspected:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	226	13	50	1,482	588
Number Inspected	226	13	50	1,482	588
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	6	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	38	3	1	170	69
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticercosis	16.9	23.0	2.0	11.6	11.5
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	13
Percentage of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	2.2
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	54	54	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	54	54	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found: 20.

Sanitary conveniences insufficient: 1.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

All the premises in the Borough to which the Act applies are registered and following inspections the owners or occupiers have been notified of contraventions.

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	26	26	26
Retail Shops	76	76	76
Wholesale shops, warehouses	3	3	3
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	9	9	9
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
Totals	114	114	114

Number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises: 130.

Summary of main defects found upon inspections of premises:

	<i>No. of premises</i>
1. Lack of washing facilities or hot water	45
2. Defects in floors, stairs (including lack of handrails)	63
3. Lack of or unsatisfactory water closets	26
4. Insufficient guarding of dangerous machinery	10
5. Lack of thermometers and First Aid requirements	100
6. Insufficient or unsatisfactory heating	12
7. Unsatisfactory facilities for drinking water	28

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

The supply of water for domestic and trade purposes during the year has proved adequate to meet the demand.

Extensions to the water mains have taken place at Charlton Village to cater for the 3rd Stage development of Charlton Heights Housing Estate.

Eight samples of water were obtained for bacteriological examination all of which were reported satisfactory. The fluoride content in the mains supply is reported as 0.1 parts per million.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The construction of sewers during the year has been confined to new separate foul and surface water sewers for housing estate development.

A scheme has been prepared for the construction of a new trunk sewer to the Bradfield Farm Sewage Disposal Works and for enlargement and extensions of the works to an ultimate capacity of 1.35 million gallons per day. The scheme envisages the works being carried out in two stages and proposals in respect of Stage 1, to deal with a flow of 1,000,000 gallons per day, have been submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Domestic and Trade Refuse has been collected weekly from all properties in the district.

The tip at 'S' Hill has been worked satisfactorily but will provide tipping space for no more than two years and investigations are being carried out with a view to obtaining another site.

RODENT CONTROL

Surveys of 55 premises have been carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 13 of which were as a result of notification of infestation.

A further 229 premises were examined for rodent infestation during inspections for other purposes.

Twenty-seven minor infestations were found.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Haven Vale Caravan Site, Grove Street, is licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, as a site for 27 dwellings. An adequate sanitary and ablution block is provided which is maintained in a satisfactory condition and a piped water supply has now been installed to each moveable dwelling.

CEMETERY

It is anticipated that it will be necessary in the near future to bring into use land purchased for burial purposes to the south of the existing cemetery at Chain Hill, part of which has been developed with access road and footpath. Regulations are being formulated for the control of this burial ground.

HOUSING

	1962	1963	1964
Number of permanent houses erected	43	114	136
Number of permanent houses erected by the Local Authority	—	6	29
Number of permanent houses erected by private enterprise	43	108	107
Number of temporary houses erected	—	—	—
Number of families on housing list	207	251	256

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Number of persons dealt with under section 47: Nil.

Number of persons dealt with under Section 50: Nil.

SWIMMING BATHS

The Urban District Council own and maintain one open air swimming pool. No filtration or purification plant is installed, the pool being emptied, cleansed and refilled weekly from the public mains. Swimming pools are installed at three schools in the district. Samples of water obtained from these pools have proved satisfactory.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

No disinfection of premises has been required during the year.

LICENSED PREMISES

There are 25 licensed premises in the district as follows: -

Hotels and Public Houses	17
Off Licenses	7
Licensed Restaurant	1

Twelve premises have been inspected involving 17 visits.

One hotel has been closed for extensive improvements and alterations and additions are being carried out to the sanitary accommodation at two licensed premises.

SHOPS ACT

Number of shops in the district	105
Number of shops inspected ...	47
Number of inspections ...	81

FOOD AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 48 food premises in the district as follows: -

Butchers	...	...	...	6
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	1
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	2
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	...	17
Greengrocers	...	...	...	3
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	2
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	5
Hotels	...	...	...	6
Restaurant	...	...	...	3

Twenty-seven premises have been visited with a total of 49 visits. The standard of cleanliness in food premises is generally satisfactory.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Twenty-five Offices, 64 Retail Shops and 3 Catering Establishments have been registered.

Eight Offices and 5 Retail Shops have been inspected. Seven Offices and 5 Retail Shops were found not to comply with all the requirements of the Act and informal action was taken in respect of these premises.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

There are no licensed slaughter houses in the district.

The following items were found, on inspection at premises other than slaughterhouses, to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered: -

CANNED FOODS

Jellied Veal	1 tin	4 lbs.
Pressed Ham	8 tins	32 lbs.
Chopped Pork	2 tins	8 lbs.

FROZEN FOODS

9 pkts. Sweet Corn.
7 pkts. Asparagus.
4 pkts. Spinach.
8 pkts. Broccoli.
61 pkts. Peas.
34 pkts. Beans.
13 pkts. Sprouts.
15 pkts. Cod.
7 pkts. Fish Cakes.
26 pkts. Fish Steaks.
26 pkts. Plaice.
15 pkts. Haddock.
7 pkts. Kippers.
4 pkts. Trout.
9 pkts. Salmon.
9 pkts. Scampi.
22 pkts. Shrimps.
17 pkts. Prawns.
2 pkts. Crab Meat.
21 pkts. Steak Pies and Steaklets.
6 pkts. Beefburgers.
3 pkts. Chicken Joints.
7 pkts. Chicken Livers.
5 pkts. Sausage Rolls.
7 pkts. Strawberries.
4 pkts. Raspberries.
3 pkts. Chocolate Mousse.
16 pkts. Pastry.

Unsound meat is destroyed. Other foods are buried or destroyed under Council supervision.

ICE CREAM

Twenty-five premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Nineteen licensed premises have been inspected during the year, the total number of visits being 67. The premises were found to satisfactory in respect of the storage and sale of ice cream.

Six samples of fruit lollies, and 26 samples of soft ice cream were obtained for bacteriological examination, with the following results: -

Fruit Lollies —	Satisfactory.
Soft Ice Cream —	13 placed Prov. Grade I.
	9 in Prov. Grade II.
	4 in Prov. Grade III.

MILK SUPPLIES

There are two retailers of milk in the district each of whom holds a licence to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk and there are also five shops in the district from which milk is sold in pre-packed containers.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING 1964

	<i>No. of properties or sites visited</i>	<i>Total No. of visits made</i>
Water sampling	8	12
Sewage Disposal	1	29
Refuse Tip	1	36
Moveable dwellings	1	14
Swimming Baths	4	28
Licensed premises	12	17
Shops	47	81
Food Shops	27	49
Offices, Shops and Railway- Premises	13	27
Ice Cream Shops	19	67
Unfit Foods	6	14
Milk Shops	5	5
General House Inspection ...	134	193
Disinfestation of Premises ...	—	—
Drainage Inspection	136	151
Rodent Control	55	318
Number of different premises inspected	469	
Number of visits made	1041	
Number of complaints received	69	
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	81	
Number of nuisances abated	73	
Number of Notices: Formal	Nil	
Informal	81	

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	19	1	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by by the Local Authority	29	14	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	16	3	—
Total	54	49	6	—

2 — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective — 5 (Remedied):
 1 referred by H.M. Inspector.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — Nil.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLY

As in previous years, the supply to the area was provided from underground sources at Aston Tirrold, Cholsey, South Moreton and West Hagbourne.

An increasing quantity is now brought into the area from the Board's sources at Blewbury and Goring (Cleeve), and in addition water is obtained from the War Department pumping station at West Hagbourne.

Samples as detailed below were collected in the area during the year: -

1. WORKS

	<i>Raw Waters</i>	<i>Final Waters</i>
Aston Tirrold	19	19
Cholsey	23	25
South Moreton	37	19
West Hagbourne	34	20
W.D. Hagbourne	2	12
	<hr/> 115	<hr/> 95
	<hr/>	<hr/>

2. STORAGE

Aston Tirrold Reservoir	2
Hagbourne Reservoir	2
Tap and Distribution System	9
	<hr/> 13
	<hr/>

In all, therefore, 223 samples were examined.

Of the 115 raw waters, 31 showed some contamination with organisms of the coliform group.

Of the 108 samples of final, stored and distributed water, one only fell a little below the highest standard of bacterial purity.

In general therefore the water supply can be considered to be pure and wholesome.

CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE WATER SUPPLY

(Results are given in parts per million where appropriate)

Aston Tirrold Cholsey S. Moreton W. Hagbourne

Appearance	Aerated, becoming clear and bright	Aerated, becoming clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	nil	nil	5	nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	nil	nil	nil	nil
Odour	nil	nil	nil	nil
pH Value	7.3	7.0	7.2	7.0
Chlorides	14.0	23.5	18.5	11.0
Hardness as CaCO ₃				
Total:	207	380	360	315
Carbonate (Temporary)	190	240	355	280
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	17	140	5	35
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.005	0.020	0.105	0.020
Nitrite (N)	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Nitrate (N)	3.9	2.1	0.7	1.0
Iron (Fe)	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.01
Other Metals	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed				
4 hrs. at 27°C	0.05	0.20	0.85	0.13
Total Dissolved Solids				
(dried at 180°C)	245	515	610	380
Calcium (Ca)	80	148	130	121
Sulphate (SO ₄)	16.5	125	115	55
Natural Fluoride (F)	0.1	less than 0.1	less than 0.1	less than 0.1

Regarding supplies brought into the area, the natural fluoride content of Blewbury derived water appears to be less than 0.1 p.p.m., that from Goring (Cleeve) also less than 0.1 p.p.m., while water from the W.D. source at Hagbourne has been found to contain approximately 0.2 p.p.m. F.

From the above analyses, the water would not be expected to be plumbo solvent, and no tests for lead were carried out during the year.

No unusual instances of contamination of the supply occurred during 1964.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During 1964, the following works were completed:

SEWERAGE AND SURFACE WATER

New sewers to serve new development have been laid in Lake Way, Didcot (9" diameter) and The Croft, East Hagbourne (6" diameter).

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

Culverting of open watercourses for use as surface water sewers has been carried out at Cronshaw Close, Didcot (21" diameter), Park Road, Didcot (30" diameter) and Wallingford Road, Cholsey (15" diameter).

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE

A new Public Convenience was opened in Park Road, Didcot, and the construction of a further convenience at a riverside car park, Long Wittenham, commenced.

REFUSE COLLECTION

STAFF: 1 Foreman and 10 men (1 man is employed full time on tip control). One additional man is to be employed on collection from October 1965.

EQUIPMENT:

- 1 — 25 cubic yard Karrier (Petrol).*
- 1 — 25 cubic yard S & D (Diesel).
- 1 — 25 cubic yard Karrier (Diesel).
- 1 Bristol Duplex Tractor (Tip Control).

* Due for replacement in 1965 by a 35 cubic yard vehicle (Diesel). With the increasing bulk of domestic refuse it is anticipated that all the Council's existing vehicles will eventually be replaced by vehicles of 35 cubic yard capacity.

COLLECTION

Kerbside collection once per week. A charge of £1 per annum is made for additional service where refuse is collected from the back door.

DISPOSAL

By controlled tipping at Pearith Gravel Pits, Long Wittenham. The Council is at present providing tipping facilities for Wallingford Borough Council and Wantage Rural District Council. These facilities will have to be withdrawn with effect from the 31st March, 1966, owing to lack of tipping space. It has been suggested that a conference should be held between the various neighbouring Authorities, to consider a combined scheme for the disposal of household refuse on a long term basis.

TRADE REFUSE

The Council charges for the collection of trade refuse at the rate of 6d. per bin equivalent. A charge of 5/- per load is levied for the disposal of trade refuse at the tip.

SALVAGE

Salvage operations are still confined to the recovery of rags, woollens, non-ferrous metals, cast iron and steel. 75% of salvage receipts are paid monthly to the men as bonus. The remaining 25% is credited to the General Rate Fund.

STREET CLEANSING

The Council now employs a pensioner for five half-days per week clearing litter from the Didcot shopping areas. This covers Broadway, Wantage Road, Park Road, Station Road, Ridgeway Road, and Abbott Road, Didcot.

RODENT CONTROL

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1964.

		<i>Visits</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Local Authority Premises	...	269	28
Dwelling Houses	... ..	2149	364
Business Premises	... ..	377	76
Agricultural Properties	...	137	92
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	2932	560
		<hr/>	<hr/>

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district. The particulars are as follows:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>
The Cholsey Abattoir, Ilges Lane, Cholsey.	The Cholsey Meat Supply Co. Ltd. Ilges Lane, Cholsey.
The Slaughterhouse, 5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot.	Messrs. H. Andrews and Sons, 5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot.

Details of meat inspection carried out during the year are shown in the following table.

MEAT INSPECTION 1964

	Cows	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Lambs
January	—	13	2	4	43	30	—
February	—	3	12	5	46	18	—
March	—	4	10	1	48	16	2
April	—	8	8	2	52	10	12
May	—	7	2	3	45	2	35
June	—	4	10	3	40	—	33
July	—	5	8	1	49	8	13
August	—	3	6	2	41	—	25
September	—	4	10	2	49	—	23
October	—	6	8	6	45	8	8
November	—	4	10	2	53	1	20
December	—	4	8	3	78	1	16
	—	65	94	34	589	94	187

Tuberculosis

Whole Carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcasses/ Organs	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
%	—	—	—	—	1.52	—	—

Cysticercosis Bovis

Whole Carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcasses/ Organs	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
%	—	1.25	—	—	—	—	—

Diseases other than T.B. and C. Bovis

Whole Carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcasses/ Organs	—	18	—	—	54	1	5
%	—	1.13	—	—	9.31	1.06	2.67

MEAT CONDEMNED AS UNFIT

	<i>lbs.</i>
Part Carcasses	2
Meat	144
Offal	313
	—
Total	459 lbs.
	—

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOODS UNFIT FOR
HUMAN CONSUMPTION

CANNED FOOD

7066 cans Fruit and Vegetables	24427 lbs.
135 cans Meats	292 lbs.
6 cans Fish	1 lb.
3 cans Milk	3 lbs.

OTHER FOOD

20 boxes Dried Prunes	600 lbs.
55 sacks Butter Beans	6160 lbs.
Fresh Meat	184 lbs.
1 jar Gherkins	28 lbs.
27 hens	123 lbs.

Total weight surrendered	31818 lbs.
	(14 tons 4 cwts. 20 lbs.)

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

MILK

All milk retailed in the district is designated. Nineteen samples of milk were taken during the year, all of which were satisfactory (6 of these samples were taken from schools).

Two complaints were received during the year concerning milk retailed in dirty bottles. Warning letters were sent to the firm concerned.

ICE CREAM

One cafe is registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, but no ice cream was manufactured on the premises during the year. There are 61 premises registered for the sale and storage of ice cream.

Two samples of soft ice cream were taken from one retailer during the year and reported on as provisional Grade I.

GENERAL

The following complaints concerning food offered for sale were dealt with during the year:

- (1) *Complaint about cheese contaminated by fly.* Letter of warning sent to manufacturer concerned.
- (2) *Complaint about discolouration of yolks in fresh eggs.* Samples examined but no defects discovered to account for alleged discolouration.

- (3) *Complaint about tinned grapefruit.* Laboratory report stated the grapefruit was fit for consumption. White specks were clusters of glucoside nilingin which is often present in grapefruit when they have been canned in an under-ripe condition.
- (4) *Complaint about tin of corned beef.* Defective lacquering of can. Referred to manufacturers for investigation.
- (5) *Complaint about canned fruit.* Brand withdrawn from sale by the firm concerned whilst investigations were made concerning this particular product.
- (6) *Complaint about tuft of hair in can of beef dumplings.* Analyst's report revealed that hair was of bovine origin. No further action taken.
- (7) *Complaint about maggot in chocolate cream bun.* Manufacturer prosecuted and convicted.
- (8) *Complaint about piece of metal in loaf.* Manufacturer prosecuted and convicted.
- (9) *Complaint about earwigs in can of tomato juice.* Referred to manufacturers for investigation. No further action taken in view of the possibility of the earwigs having gained access after the can was opened.
- (10) *Complaint about ham rolls sold in local club.* Manager interviewed. No evidence that ham was unfit for consumption. No further action taken.

STATISTICS

FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

Food factories and warehouses	...	11
General grocery	... ..	41
Butchers	... ..	12
Chemists	... ..	5
Cafes	... ..	4
Public Houses	... ..	23
Travelling food vehicles	... ..	7
Greengrocers	... ..	5
Confectioners	... ..	7
Fish shops	... ..	3
Hotels with Catering Licences	...	6
Bakeries	... ..	3

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Manufacture of ice cream	...	...	2
Storage and sale of ice cream	...	61	
Fish frying	...	...	2
Sausage making	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	3

NOTICES SERVED DURING 1964

				<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
General defects	...	...	...	8	1
Drainage	...	...	...	3	—
Defective dustbins	...	...	...	2	1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises, Act 10					—
Defective paving	...	...	...	1	—
Blocked drains	...	...	...	1	—
Culverting ditches	...	...	...	—	1
Defective sanitary accommodation	...			3	2

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

There were no complaints concerning atmospheric pollution during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During 1964 two persons were buried by the Local Authority under the provisions of Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

SWIMMING BATHS

- The following swimming baths are situated in the district:
- Edmonds Park, Didcot (Public).
 - Didcot Girls' Grammar School (Private).
 - Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Nr. Wallingford (Public).
 - Cranford House School, Moulsoford (Private).

The following samples of swimming bath water were taken during 1964:

Date	Place	Report		
		Coliform Bacilli	B. Coli (type I)	Plate Count
30.6.64	Didcot Girls' Grammar School	0	—	1 per ml.
30.6.64	Edmonds Park, Didcot	0	—	less than 1 per ml.
29.6.64	Shillingford Bridge Hotel	35	5	more than 500 per ml.
10.8.64	Edmonds Park, Didcot	0	—	less than 1 per ml.
10.8.64	Shillingford Bridge Hotel	180 +	1	more than 500 per ml.

The manager of the Shillingford Bridge Hotel has been advised to investigate the possibility of using mains water instead of river water for his pool.

HOUSING

During 1964 four houses were represented as unfit for human habitation.

The following building programmes were completed during 1964:

DIDCOT — 34 houses for sale to existing tenants and applicants on waiting list.

CHOLSEY — 26 cottage flats.

EAST HAGBOURNE — 6 bungalows, 32 cottage flats (partly completed).

The number of persons on the housing waiting list is approximately 579.

CARAVANS

The following licensed caravan sites are operated in the Council's district:

SHILLINGFORD HILL CARAVAN SITE, NR. WALLINGFORD.

120 permanent sites, 40 holiday sites.

Standard good. An additional toilet block is being provided.

BLAGRAVE FARM SITE, DIDCOT.

25 permanent sites. Standard satisfactory.

THREE POPLARS SITE, LONG WITTENHAM.

32 permanent sites. The site is not yet provided with electricity or hot water supply. The operator has been warned that the Council will take proceedings for a breach of the licensing conditions if this work is not speeded up.

HAGBOURNE ROAD SITE, DIDCOT.

100 permanent sites. Improvement work proceeding. Roads to be surfaced and electricity provided by September 1965.

POST OFFICE SITE, CHOLSEY.

12 permanent sites. Completed apart from external painting of block and provision of storage sheds.

BARLEY MOW SITE, LONG WITTENHAM.

6 permanent sites, 40 holiday sites.

Toilet block erected. Should be completed for summer season.

The following site was closed in 1964:

Cross Road Site, Cholsey — 6 caravans.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The Act came into operation on 1st August, 1964, and early work comprised the registering of premises. At the end of the year the following premises were registered:

Offices	23
Retail Shops	89
Wholesale shops and warehouses	4
Catering establishments	4
Fuel Storage Depots	3
	<hr/>
Total	123
	<hr/>

Inspection began during November and by the end of the year 10% of premises had received a general inspection. From the outset it was obvious that very few premises complied entirely with the standards laid down and this trend will no doubt continue as inspections proceed.

During the first five months of operation three accidents were notified. None was due to any mechanical cause and could have been avoided. Two of the accidents were investigated.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by by the Local Authority	50	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	51	1	—	—

2 — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — No. of workers required by Section 133(1)(c):

Making, etc., of wearing apparel	82
Finishing greetings cards	50
Total	132

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

MILK

All milk sold in the district was subject to the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, and licences issued by the Berkshire County Council in force during the year were as follows:

Pasteuriser	...	...	...	1
Dealers (pre-packed)	...	...	...	8

Following the virtual eradication of bovine tuberculosis in this country the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" became meaningless and new Regulations, which came into force on 1st October authorised the use of the word "Untreated" instead. Smith Bros. (Kingsgrove Farms) Ltd. was the only firm in the district to be issued with a licence using this new designation.

Twenty-eight samples of school milk were taken during the year. This milk was supplied by five different dairies all situated outside the Wantage Rural District, namely: The Oxford Co-operative Society Ltd., The Swindon Co-operative Society Ltd., H. A. Job Ltd., County Dairies (Oxford) Ltd., and Newbury Creameries Ltd. All the samples satisfied the phosphatase test indicating that the milk had been adequately pasteurised, but one sample failed the methylene blue test which pointed to a higher bacterial activity than was desirable. The matter was taken up with the dairy concerned and subsequent samples from the same source proved satisfactory.

Three complaints of dirty milk bottles were received during the year and on each occasion the matter was referered to the dairy concerned and the local public health department, who were satisfied that every reasonable precaution was being taken. In the circumstances it was decided to write to each of the five suppliers and enquire what further steps could be taken to prevent this continued source of complaint, with particular reference to the possible extension of use of non-returnable containers. Each firm replied in some detail but the remarks made were all to the effect that the complete discontinuance of returnable bottles was unlikely in the foreseeable future. The main reasons given can be summarised as follows:

1. Sales resistance by the housewife. A survey indicated that only one third of persons interviewed preferred cartoned milk.
2. The increased cost of approximately 1d. per pint.
3. The unsuitability of most types of container for storage of milk in the house once opened.

One firm mentioned two further interesting points:

1. That the problems involved had not been made easier to solve by a paragraph which appeared in a food magazine referring to "a theory that paraffin, used to make milk cartons watertight, may contain elements which might cause cancer."
2. That a new American machine designed to scan and reject dirty bottles electronically had been undergoing trials with every promise of success.

Each supplier also blamed the public for a high proportion of the troubles experienced in that they had so little regard for the empty bottle.

In spite of all these weighty opinions, the arguments for carton-ing are still very strong, not only on grounds of public health but from the point of view of savings in time, labour and machinery, and the reduction of noise.

CREAM

During the year ten samples of pasteurised double cream were taken from Elms Farm Dairy, Grove, and of these four failed to pass the four hour methylene blue test. This test has no legal significance as far as cream is concerned and can only be regarded as a general guide to the bacterial activity of the product. As in 1963 it is highly probable that the failures were caused by non-pathogenic spore bearing organisms which survive pasteurisation and the main concern was that the keeping quality of the product was being adversely affected.

Numerous visits were paid to the dairy during the year and in spite of major alterations directed towards the improvement of the dairy generally the production lines for cream, yoghurt and other milk products were found to be hygienically operated.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There were 76 catering establishments in the district including 54 licensed premises most of which provided snacks, some providing main meals.

Forty-one visits were made to these premises during the year and standards were found to be generally good particularly in schools and U.K.A.E.A. kitchens. In seven instances redecorating and other improvements were carried out following requests from this department. One public house was closed and demolished, it being decided by the brewers that the cost of achieving the required standard was prohibitive.

SHOPS

There were 77 shops in the district and all but ten were food premises. Three shops closed during the year in the parishes

of Beedon, Grove and Brightwalton and one new one opened in Beedon. 105 visits were made to these various premises and the standard maintained in most of them was good. However, in three instances requests had to be made for improvements but these were met without the need for legal action.

BAKEHOUSES

The four bakehouses in the district continued to be used, two for bread baking only. Each was inspected once during the year and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

MOBILE TRADERS AND FRUIT STALLS

The now familiar vehicles operating in the district continued to be well maintained and two new hawkers were registered under the Berkshire County Council Act for the sale of wet fish and greengrocery respectively.

Three fruit stalls were open during the various seasons, one of them being a new registration. Standards were found to be as good as one can expect from this type of temporary structure.

ICE CREAM PREMISES

Two new registrations under the Food and Drugs Act were made during the year making a total of 52 premises permitted to store and sell prepacked ice cream. Six samples of such ice cream were taken during the year and each was placed in Grade I.

Again the main attention in this field was given to mobile vendors operating from Wantage and 32 samples were taken jointly with the Wantage U.D.C. with results as follows:

Pasteurised mix before final freezing:

4 — Grade I.

Soft mix ice cream from various vans:

9 — Grade I.

9 — Grade II.

4 — Grade III.

0 — Grade IV.

6 — Void (due to technical trouble at the laboratory).

Vans were inspected at every opportunity, especially those giving lower grade samples but the standard of cleanliness at the time of leaving the depot each day was high. In fact, drivers were not allowed to draw fresh stock until the vans had been inspected and passed by a supervisor. However, the major difficulty was still one of adequate supervision once the vans were on the road.

Six ice-lolly samples were also taken during the year and all were reported satisfactory.

WATERCRESS

In the early part of the year cress was again produced on a small scale at Letcombe Bassett and Ginge, both beds being used by one man. The beds at Childrey fell into disuse.

All cress produced was subjected to chlorine dipping (50 p.p.m. for one hour) to reduce surface contamination and to improve keeping quality.

Sampling took place as follows:

<i>Cress</i>	<i>Probable numbers of coliform organisms per 100 ml.</i>	
	<i>Non-faecal</i>	<i>Faecal</i>
Ginge — untreated	60	10
Letcombe — untreated	450	10
treated (centre of chip)	70	0
treated (edge of chip)	10	0

These results showed quite clearly that sterilization by chlorine dipping had a marked effect on the bacteriological quality of the cress but underlined the problems of achieving adequate penetration into the bundles of cress once packed into chips.

One practical problem experienced in the actual sampling procedure was obtaining sterile jars of sufficient size to take the 50 grams of cress required by the laboratory. This was overcome by the use of ordinary plastic bags kindly sterilized by the Wantage Research Laboratory in their gamma irradiation plant at Grove — a solution which may well have applications in other fields of sampling.

Seven samples of cress bed water were also taken and as expected these showed evidence of increasing pollution from spring to out-fall.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following food was voluntarily surrendered by traders and condemnation certificates were issued:

43 lbs. of meat at retail shops.

12 lbs. of meat products.

78 lbs. of canned meats.

14 lbs. of ice cream (melted after refrigerator breakdown).

In addition to the above 12½ lbs. of New Zealand lamb was surrendered by a school meals kitchen as being in the early stages of decomposition and this was formally dealt with by a Justice of the Peace in view of the possibility of subsequent legal proceedings against the suppliers. However, the matter was eventually dealt with informally and following a warning letter to the firm in question no further complaints were received.

In June a considerable amount of time was spent in tracing 6 lb. tins of corned beef suspected of being connected with the Aberdeen typhoid epidemic. Contact was made with every food premises in the district, in the main by actual visits and all known stocks of corned beef were checked. As a result 17 tins were withdrawn from sale and returned to wholesalers.

One complaint of oil specks in a loaf of bread was received and although the bakery concerned was outside the Wantage district it was inspected jointly with the local Public Health Inspector. Standards generally were found to be good but excessive use of a vegetable oil for greasing dough bowls appeared to give rise to the trouble which had occurred elsewhere. Assurances were given that greater supervision of greasing operations would be exercised and no further action was taken.

FOOD POISONING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year 14 visits were made and 11 faecal specimens taken following notifications of various kinds of gastro-intestinal illnesses.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act was designed to make provision for the safety, health and welfare of employees in offices, shops and certain other classes of workplace. The major portions of the Act came into force on 1st August following a period of three months during which all premises included within the scope of the Act had to be registered with either the Local Authority or the Factory Inspectorate.

Provision was made for Annual Reports to be made to the Ministry of Labour and the following is a summary of the first of such reports:

TABLE A — REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	11	11	4
Retail shops	43	41	21
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	7	7	1
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	—	—
Fuel storage depots	2	2	—
Totals	63	61	26

TABLE B — NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS
TO REGISTERED PREMISES
66

TABLE C — ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED
PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	50
Retail shops	128
Wholesale departments, warehouses	5
Catering establishments open to the public	27
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	5
TOTAL	215
TOTAL MALES	75
TOTAL FEMALES	140

It was found that a number of premises failed to comply with one or more of the requirements of the Acts, notably regarding sanitary accommodation, washing facilities and first-aid boxes and the deficiencies were pointed out to the employers either verbally or by letter.

The safety provisions of the Act, particularly those concerning dangerous machines were something of a new responsibility for the Public Health Inspector but one which is proving to be of considerable interest.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

One slaughterhouse and one knackers yard were licensed in the district but the latter was used only rarely. Regular visits were made to the slaughterhouse for purposes of meat inspection and conditions were always found to be satisfactory.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	27	79	130	608	458
Number inspected	27	79	130	608	458
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	5	3	9	18
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	11	—	13	157
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	3.7	20.3	2.3	3.6	38.0
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of meat and offal condemned was 6,160 lbs.

Local Authorities are now permitted to make charges for meat inspection at the rate of 2s. 6d. per bovine animal, 9d. per pig and 6d. per sheep or goat. Income during the year totalled £51 1s. 6d.

REFUSE COLLECTION

During the year 5,995 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of at the Council's refuse tips at Farnborough, Hampstead Norris and Stanford. Pearith gravel pits were also used one day a week by arrangement with Wallingford R.D.C.

The weekly kerbside collection continued to operate fairly satisfactorily although labour difficulties were encountered and the service to householders suffered some dislocation over the Christ-

mas period. In the main, however, the incentive bonus payments made to the employees were sufficient to hold the labour force and no serious disruption of the service took place.

A further Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft freighter was purchased during the year to meet the increased amount of work to be undertaken and, in this connection, it may be appropriate to suggest that the present system of refuse collection in this country is completely out-of-date and that the whole problem should be reviewed from an entirely different standpoint.

Since the war, manufacturers of refuse freighters have had to concentrate on the production of larger vehicles with expensive crushing or compacting equipment in order to meet the demand for the collection of refuse which has become lighter but more bulky in character. Apart from the heavy costs of purchase and maintenance of these purpose-made vehicles, the added inconvenience, frustration and delay caused to all road users by them must be considerable.

In this day and age when most houses are blessed with a supply of electricity, the installation of garbage grinders and small incinerators should be common practice. Grants could be made available, as they are at present under the Clean Air or Housing Acts, and Local Authorities would probably find that a monthly collection of household refuse, using more conventional vehicles, would be adequate. The advantages of having to deal with a very much reduced amount of refuse, almost free of organic matter, at the refuse tips or disposal points are obvious and need no further comment.

EQUIPMENT

- 4 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft Freighters.
- 1 Dennis 10 Cubic Yard Side Loader.
- 1 Brayloader.
- 1 Fordson Major Tractor.
- 1 Calldozer (rarely used).

EMPLOYEES

- 1 Working Foreman/Fitter.
- 5 Driver/Loaders.
- 4 Loaders.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

Regular emptying of Council owned sewage tanks and cesspools continued and in addition a considerable amount of private work was undertaken, the charges being £1 15s. 0d. per load and 17s. 6d. for subsequent loads taken on the same day. In a number of cases contracts were negotiated whereby tanks were emptied at least twice a year at a slightly reduced rate.

Number of emptyings of Council sewage tanks	130
Number of emptyings of Council cesspools	71
Number of emptyings of private tanks and cesspools	614
Income from emptying of private tanks, etc.	£1,343 17s. 3d.
Number of gallons of sewage pumped	1,317,600

One tanker of approximately 800 gallons capacity, with driver, was employed during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

All parishes continued to be supplied with mains water from four boreholes under the control of The Thames Valley Water Board. These boreholes are situated at Brightwalton, Churn Down, Blewbury, Childrey Warren and West Hendred and they are linked so that a deficiency in one can be augmented from another. All supplies are chlorinated. The flouride content of the sources is as follows: Brightwalton, Churn Down, Blewbury and Childrey Warren less than 0.1 p.p.m.; West Hendred 0.3 p.p.m.

During the year 39 samples of mains water were taken for bacteriological examination and these were all found to be highly satisfactory. The only complaint received concerned water of a deep orange colour drawn off at Chilton School which cleared after a day or two. Investigations revealed that fire hydrants in the vicinity had been tested and the sudden draw off of high volumes of water had disturbed sediment rich in iron salts. The bacteriological quality of the water was not affected and no ill effects from the drinking of such water were reported.

Thirty-six samples of water were also taken from private supplies, with emphasis once again being placed on unchlorinated estate supplies at Lockinge/Ardington, South Fawley and Catmore. Fourteen different sources in all were tested and of these 11 were found to be satisfactory. In two cases slight non-faecal contamination was reported but cleansing operations were carried out and subsequent samples showed a marked improvement. In the remaining case, that of an individual farm house, the water was heavily contaminated and the consumer was advised to boil all water pending the provision of an alternative supply.

Parish	Acres	Population	No. of houses		Sewerage
			Council	Private	
Ardington	2693	372	—	131	Yes
E. Challow	1657	710	90	162	Yes
W. Challow	1070	187	16	40	Yes
Childrey	2929	452	42	113	Yes
Denchworth	1051	191	12	44	*
Goosey	946	130	10	32	*
Grove	2513	2506	141	666	Yes
E. Hanney	2200	628	44	153	Yes
W. Hanney	1333	473	28	134	Yes
E. Hendred	3198	1315	92	356	Yes
W. Hendred	2002	333	27	80	*
L. Regis	2155	560	42	124	Yes
L. Bassett	1631	164	16	47	*
Lockinge	3763	268	—	95	Yes
Sparsholt	3329	270	29	74	*
Aldworth	1886	192	16	56	*
Beedon	2096	395	28	106	*
Blewbury	4246	1215	64	322	Yes
Brightwalton	2054	274	18	100	*
Catmore	710	41	—	15	—
Chaddleworth	3400	414	46	106	Yes(Part)
Chilton	1448	687	44	190	Yes
Compton	3803	1060	74	264	Yes
Farnborough	1886	110	4	33	—
Fawley	2190	143	5	45	*
H. Norris	4479	690	52	182	Yes
Hermitage	1482	830	7	272	*
Harwell	2503	2438	90	557	Yes
E. Ilsley	3017	444	40	103	Yes
W. Isley	3037	282	8	101	—
Peasemore	2049	172	12	57	*
Upton	1413	344	25	94	Yes
<hr/>					
	74159	18290	1122	4854	

* Small disposal works in existence for Council houses only.

The Thames Valley Water Board states that 342 new services were laid during the year and 22 mains extensions were carried out.

SEWERAGE

During the year numerous complaints were received of surface water contamination in the parish of Hermitage. Housing development and the installation of septic tanks with overflows to surface

water ditches were the major cause of this contamination and it was obvious that the provision of a proper sewerage system for the whole of the village was the only practical solution.

The matter was referred to the Council stressing the urgency of the position.

The Engineer and Surveyor has made the following comments on improvements undertaken during the year.

“The sewerage system for Harwell was overhauled and new sewers laid, the existing sewers now being used for surface water only. In addition a new disposal works was constructed.

The existing disposal works at Beedon was extended to cater for new Council houses and the new school.

The new housing at Knowl Close, Letcombe Bassett caused a need for the existing works to be increased in size. This was completed, and a new disposal plant for 12 existing Council houses at Goosey was installed.”

SWIMMING POOLS

Until 1964 only one school in the district, namely the one at Chilton, was provided with a swimming pool but during the year three further pools were constructed and brought into use at Grove, Childrey and Compton primary schools. Unlike Chilton, where an orthodox sunken pool was available these three pools were all to some extent prefabricated. The sides were erected above ground on a concrete base and the shell was then lined with polythene to make it watertight. The depth is constant at about three feet and this type of pool is proving to be comparatively inexpensive to install and yet very useful for teaching younger children to swim.

All four pools were adequately equipped with filtering and automatic chlorinating equipment and of the nine samples taken during the short period of use, seven were reported satisfactory. The two slightly sub-standard results related to initial samples taken during the first week of use at Childrey and Grove respectively and merely indicated the need for minor adjustments in chlorine levels. Subsequent samples were good.

Chlorine and pH levels were, in fact, checked on each visit and were satisfactory except in the two instances referred to above.

It is hoped that other schools where orthodox pools are out of the question may soon be equipped in a similar fashion.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

An Act, requiring the licencing of boarding kennels and similar establishments by the Local Authority, came into force at the beginning of the year. Fifteen visits were made and as a result it became necessary to issue licences in the parishes of Brightwalton, East Hendred and Blewbury (2). In each case the premises complied with conditions laid down and also met with approval from the district R.S.P.C.A. Inspector.

RODENT CONTROL

DOMESTIC

Number of complaints received	198
Number of infestations	899

In addition, any infestations found at the A.E.R.E., Harwell and Grove and at Council owned properties throughout the area were effectively dealt with during the year.

AGRICULTURAL

Number of contracts	36
Value of contracts	£772

Treated at least once per month.

Warfarin remained the major, and in most cases the only weapon, in the war on the rodent population and although suspicions were aroused that some rats were immune to its lethal effects no real evidence in this direction was found. However, one serious infestation at Hampstead Norris refuse tip did not respond to Warfarin treatment and zinc phosphide in a soaked wheat base was used with spectacular results. It was not thought wise, however, to use this treatment elsewhere in view of the acutely poisonous properties of the substance. Occasional infestations in banks and hedgerows were dealt with by gassing with hydrogen cyanide but again there was an element of danger involved which precluded more general use.

An official of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food carried out an inspection of sewers in the district during the year and was well satisfied with the almost complete freedom from infestation shown by the test baiting carried out by the Council's Rodent Officer.

CARAVANS

The three large permanently licensed sites in the district continued to function, providing accommodation for a total of 185 vans as follows:

Marshall's Caravan Service Ltd., Cane Lane, Grove	90 caravans
Chiltern Caravan Co., The Barrow, Harwell	35 caravans
Mr. R. W. Pask, Ladycroft Caravan Park, Blewbury (formerly Mr. H. S. Clargo)	60 caravans

Thirteen temporary site licences were renewed at the beginning of the year in respect of 18 vans but these figures were subsequently reduced to nine and ten respectively in spite of the granting of one new licence for two vans during the year.

Other caravans were found stationed on building sites, and farms for short periods and in gardens of houses, where they were used to supplement sleeping accommodation, but all these were, unfortunately, exempt from licencing conditions by virtue of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. This meant that the only control possible was by the nuisance sections of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Once again, however, the real problem centred on Grove airfield where itinerant general dealers, complete with lorries, tents and even livestock persisted in camping much to the annoyance of the ratepaying villagers.

Two local farmers were prosecuted during the year for permitting their land, which formed part of the airfield, to be used as a caravan site but the Council were unable to bring the law to bear on the Ministry of Defence on whose land the main camp was established. Repeated requests to remove the caravans were made to the Ministry but it was some months before the R.A.F. Police finally cleared the site. Unfortunately the open nature of the land and the concrete runways attracted further caravan dwellers and by the end of the year the position was as bad as ever. However, the land was scheduled for redevelopment and by December steps were being taken by the Ministry to return it to the former owners for his purpose. It did appear, therefore, that a final solution to the problem might be found early in 1965.

One hundred and seventy-five visits were made to various caravan sites, both licensed and otherwise, and 11 unauthorised sites were cleared during the year.

HOUSING

In 1964 housing was again the major aspect of the work of the Public Health Department. Two hundred and forty-seven house inspections were carried out and a total of 413 visits made. Such visits were made: -

- (a) as a result of complaints from tenants;
- (b) as part of routine survey work, e.g. in West Ilsley, Childrey and Upton;
- (c) following applications for grants;
- and (d) following applications for Council houses where applicants claimed housing defects as one of the reasons for requiring alternative accommodation.

Action taken following inspections had to be geared to a number of varying circumstances mainly concerning security of tenure, willingness or otherwise to pay increased rents and availability of alternative accommodation.

In 64 cases the houses visited were found to be fit in accordance with Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957 and no further action was necessary.

One hundred and two houses were found to be structurally sound, except perhaps for minor defects, but lacking in one or more of the modern amenities. In many of these cases the only action possible was to notify the owners of grants available to them and use persuasion in getting schemes for modernisation put forward. The Housing Act, 1964 gave this process a boost in that tenants could, after the Act came into force in August, make representations to the Council requiring them to exercise their powers to secure the provision of standard amenities, i.e. water-closet, bath, wash basin, hot water and a ventilated food store. Only two such representations were, in fact, made but it is expected that greater use of the relevant sections of the Act will be made once they become more widely known.

Applications for grants continued to be made voluntarily in respect of tenanted as well as owner/occupied dwellings and during the year the following were approved:

Discretionary Grants:	22 Tenanted	16 Owner/occupied.
Standard Grants:	12 Tenanted	13 Owner/occupied.

Twenty-three tenanted and 25 owner/occupied houses were actually modernised during the year with the aid of grants approved earlier and in almost every case repairs required at the time of inspection, as a condition of payment, were carried out concurrently with other work. In addition twelve informal and two statutory notices under the nuisance sections of the Public Health Acts were served in respect of properties falling into one or other of the above categories, such notices being necessary in view of the urgent nature of the repairs. All but two of the notices had been complied with at the end of the year.

The remaining 81 houses inspected were found to be unfit and not capable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense. Of these, 27 were reported to the Council and were dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 as follows:

Beedon	2
Blewbury	1
Chaddleworth	2
East Challow	1
Goosey	3
Harwell	1
East Hendred	12
Letcombe Bassett	4
Letcombe Regis	1

As a result of such or similar action taken in the previous year: -

- 2 Closing Orders were made;
- 22 Formal Undertakings to recondition were accepted;

8 houses were demolished in the parishes of: -

Catmore	1
Chilton (by Local Authority in default)	1
Compton	3
East Hanney	2
Harwell	1;

6 houses were reconditioned (with or without grant aid)
following formal undertaking as follows:

Denchworth	2 into 1
Goosey	3 into 1
Compton	1
Hampstead Norris	2
Letcombe Regis	1.

In 54 cases action had to be deferred pending the provision of alternative accommodation for the tenants and these houses will be dealt with as and when they become vacant. These figures are, of course, taken into consideration when building programmes are prepared and it is hoped that steady progress will continue to be made.

The selection of tenants for Council houses again formed an important part of the work of the Public Health Department. 24 new dwellings were completed at: -

Aldworth	4
Goosey	4
Beedon	6
Letcombe Bassett	4
East Hendred	6

and these, together with a number of casual vacancies, enabled the Council to rehouse 45 families and to incorporate 18 transfers. It is significant that of this number 18 were rehoused from the unfit dwellings referred to above.

SUMMARY OF THE REMAINDER OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

No. of complaints of all kinds received	...	...	...	94
DRAINAGE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES				
No. of properties inspected	...	...	...	35
Total number of inspections	...	...	...	41
No. of nuisances abated (excluding work by cesspool emptier)	...	...	...	19
No. of conservancy closets replaced by waterclosets (including improvement grant work)	...	...	...	46
OTHER NUISANCES				
Animals	Inspections	...	...	27
	Nuisances abated	...	...	4
Accumulations of refuse	Inspections	...	...	32
	Nuisances abated	...	...	13
Filthy premises	Inspections	...	...	3
	Nuisances abated	...	...	2
Ditches and Streams	Inspections	...	...	33
	Nuisances abated	...	...	6
	(including one following statutory notice)			
Smoke	Inspections	...	...	2
	Nuisances abated	...	...	2
Noise	Inspections	...	...	1
	Nuisances abated	...	...	1
Total number of different premises inspected by Public Health Inspectors	...	...	...	684
Total number of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors	...	...	...	1291

These figures do not include the work of the Pest Officer, Rodent Operator or Cleansing Staff which is dealt with under the respective headings.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by by the Local Authority	40	12	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	9	1	—
Total	50	22	3	—

2 — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences — 3 (2 remedied): 2
referred by H.M. Inspector.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — Nil.

